Remarks

This Reply is in response to the October 18, 2007 Final Office Action ("Office Action") issued in connection with the above-identified patent application. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 84-183 are pending in this application.

Claims 84-90, 93-115, 118-140, 143-165, and 168-183 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Goode et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,684,400 ("Goode").

Claims 91, 92, 116, 117, 141, 142, 166, and 167 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Goode in view of Hendricks et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,798,785 ("Hendricks").

Summary of the Applicants' Reply

Claims 102, 105, 127, 130, 152, 155, 177 and 180 are canceled without prejudice.

Applicants have amended independent claims 84, 109, 134, and 159 as well as dependent claims 86-88, 90, 93, 97, 98, 100, 103, 104, 106-108, 111-113, 115, 118, 122, 123, 125, 128, 129, 131-133, 135-137, 140, 143, 147, 148, 150, 153, 154, 156-158, 161-163, 165, 168, 172, 173, 175, 178, 179, and 181-183 to more particularly define the claimed invention. Applicants' claim amendments do not add any new matter and are fully supported by the originally filed specification. See, for example, p. 4, ll. 15-22; p. 31 ll. 14-16; and FIG. 7b.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Reply to the Rejections

The present invention, as defined by amended independent claims 84, 109, 134, and 159, relates to a method, systems, and a machine-readable medium for allowing a user of an interactive media guide to access media provided by media sources. The claims recite media group options and media sub-group options. The media group options and at least some of the media sub-group options indicate media available to the user without indicating the content of the media, without indicating the title of the media, and without indicating the source of the media. Media indicators are provided in response to the user selecting one of the media sub-group options. The media indicators are associated with the selected media sub-group option and identify media provided by at least one of the media sources. The media indicators include a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media. The unscheduled media includes media that is not provided at a scheduled time and is available for viewing at a time selected by the user. An action associated with a media indicator is performed in response to the user selecting one of the media indicators.

The invention provides an interactive media guide which gives users a higher level first choice (a media group option) in order to direct the user to the desired media. The media group options are accompanied by media sub-group options, which provide additional information. In the world of ever-increasing media offerings, this structure gives the user a first manageable set of high

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level options to choose from and maximizes the ease of use
of the guide in terms of allowing a more manageable route
to desired media.

The references cited by the Examiner, whether
taken singly or in combination, neither show nor suggest
the claimed invention. Goode is directed to "providing
subscription-on-demand (SOD) services for a[n] interactive
information distribution system, where a consumer may
subscribe to packages of on-demand programs for a single
price and view the programs in the subscribed package at
any time for no additional cost." See Goode, Abstract.
Thus, Goode is about providing unscheduled programs that
are available to a consumer from a single type of source
(i.e., on-demand). FIG. 4 of Goode shows a pie-shaped menu
400 that permits selection of various on-demand services
using any one of the "pie" sections 402, 404, 406, or 408.
See Goode, col. 8, lines 46-52.

The Examiner contends that Goode shows providing
media group options which indicate media available to the
user without indicating the content of the media, without
indicating the title of the media and without indicating
the source of the media. See Office Action, page 3 to page
4 (citing Goode, FIG. 4, col. 8, line 46 to line 56). In
direct contrast to the Examiner's contention, in Goode
FIG. 4, menu 400 sector 408, which is labeled "SOD
SERVICE," clearly indicates the source of the media (i.e.,
on-demand). Thus, applicants submit that Goode does not
show or suggest providing media group options which
indicate media available to the user "without indicating
the source of the media," as recited by applicants'
independent claims.

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The Examiner also contends that Goode shows
providing a plurality of media indicators in response to
the user selecting a media group option, where the
plurality of media indicators includes media indicator for
scheduled media and a second media indicator for
unscheduled media, citing Goode, col. 8, line 52 to col. 9,
line 65. See Office Action, page 2 to page 4. In
particular, the Examiner points to Goode, col. 8, line 52
to line 56, "[w]henever a menu selection [from menu 400] is
made, the system downloads an applet corresponding to that
section and either launches a new menu that provides
further options for the subscriber or displays a selected
program (e.g., starts playing a movie)," and contends that
the new menu includes scheduled media and unscheduled
media. See Office Action, page 2. The Examiner further
contends that subscription packages available from
menu 400, such as OnSet Kids, sports, cooking and travel
discussed at Goode, col. 8, line 57 to line 65, are
scheduled programs. See Office Action page 2 to page 3.
Applicants respectfully disagree.

The new menu as well the subscription packages
cited by the Examiner are all discussed in the context of
SOD services. See Goode, col. 8, line 46 to line 65. As
discussed above, SOD provides unscheduled programs that are
available to a consumer on-demand. Thus, the media
indicators pointed to by the Examiner in Goode are for
unscheduled media only and not for scheduled media.
Nowhere does Goode show or suggest providing both a media
indicator for scheduled media and a media indicator for
unscheduled media together in response to a selection from
menu 400. Applicants submit that Goode does not show
providing media indicators in response to the user

selecting one of the media sub-group options, where the media indicators include a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media, as defined by the applicants' independent claims.

In addition, to expedite the allowance of this case, applicants have amended the independent claims to recite media sub-group options, which indicate media available to the user without indicating the content of the media, without indicating the title of the media, and without indicating the source of the media. As discussed above, Goode does not even show or suggest providing media group options which indicate media available to the user without indicating the source of the media, let alone providing media sub-group options which do so.

Hendricks, which was applied by the Examiner for the alleged teaching of specific elements of certain dependent claims, does not make up the deficiencies of Goode in failing to show or suggest the claimed invention.

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 84, 109, 134, and 159 are patentable. Accordingly, each of dependent claims 85-108, 110-133, 135-158, and 160-183 is also patentable at least because it depends, directly or indirectly, from a patentable independent base claim. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 84-183 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth above, applicants respectfully submit that this application is in

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condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

                              Respectfully submitted,

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